

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Proposes clarifications in charter school law relating to the composition, governance, and training of the charter school board of directors, conflicts of interest and competitive bidding, employment matters, and changing authorizers.

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1 **Formation of a school.** (d) Makes members of a charter school board of directors eligible to vote in an election of members of the charter school board of directors. Makes board of directors committee meetings open to the public.

(f) Requires charter school board members to attend annual training. Makes a new board member who does not receive initial board training within six months of being seated on the board and does not complete the initial training within 12 months of being seated automatically ineligible to continue board service.

(g) Includes on the charter school board of directors at least one licensed teacher employed as a teacher at the charter school, one parent of an enrolled student who is not a charter school employee, and at least one community member who is a Minnesota resident. Allows the board to have a majority of teachers, parents, or community members or to have no clear majority. Allows only teachers employed at the school to serve on the board as the teacher representative. Allows a board to change its governance structure only by a majority vote of the board of directors and a majority vote of the licensed teachers teaching at the school. Makes technical changes.

(i) Precludes an authorizer from making the granting or renewing of a charter school contract contingent on a charter school leasing school facilities from the authorizer or entering into a

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contract in which the authorizer has a financial interest. Requires a charter school to document the open bidding process it used when contracting with an authorizer. Requires the authorizer to demonstrate that the terms of its bid were competitive and that the same terms are available to schools the authorizer does not authorize.

- 2 **Conflict of interest.** Prohibits an individual from serving as a member of a charter school board of directors if the individual's partner is a full or part owner or principal with a for-profit or nonprofit entity or independent contractor with whom the charter school contracts. Prohibits an individual from serving as a board member if an immediate family member is a school employee or is an individual with whom the school contracts.
- 3 **Employment and other operating matters.** (c) Directs the board of directors to decide policy matters, including programming and personnel issues. Directs the board to adopt a policy on nepotism in employment. Directs the board to adopt personnel evaluation policies and practices.
- 4 **Causes for nonrenewal or termination of charter school contract.** (c) Strikes language providing for a change in authorizers when the authorizer and the board of directors of a charter school mutually agree to terminate or not renew a charter school contract. Establishes a process for changing authorizers when an authorizer and the charter school board of directors mutually agree to not renew a contract. Requires both parties to jointly submit a letter of intent to the commissioner. Requires the authorizer that is a party to the charter school contract to inform the proposed authorizer about the status of the charter school, including existing contractual obligations. Requires a proposed contract to identify and address outstanding obligations in the existing contract. Establishes a review and approval process. Requires a charter school to dissolve if no change in authorizer is approved.